THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) prepared by Pratham, an NGO has suggested that 35% of all children in the age group of 6—14 could not read a simple paragraph and 52% could not read a short story. The testing methodology used by the NGO is simplistic and has been questioned by several experts.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities are undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education with a view to improving the learning achievement levels of students in government schools. These include, inter-alia, recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, annual in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days, provision of free textbooks for girls, SC & ST children at primary and upper primary levels, regular academic support to schools and teachers through cluster and block resource centres, regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

Student union elections

†145. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has advised to conduct the student union elections smoothly and keep it free from money and muscle power;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have set up a committee to give suggestions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the committee would submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri J.M. Lyngdoh, Former Chief Election Commission to frame guidelines on all matters relevant and pertaining to elections to students' union in universities and colleges. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by 3rd May, 2006.

Education survey on children by NCERT

146. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT had found that the low level of learning in the 6-13 age group and had also foreseen the learning problem with students in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Schools recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise, mentioning the details for urban and rural areas and boys and girls separately;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether his Ministry has already put in place a mechanism for strict monitoring of the results of which would be made public by July, 2006;

(e) if so, the details of such mechanism put in place;

(f) whether his Ministry, considering the importance of teachers, is monitoring the account of teachers profile, experience, motivation level, pre-service and in-service experience; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) The National Council for Educational Research and Training conducted an Achievement Survey of Class-V whose report, furnished in 2005 indicates mean achievement levels of 46.7% in Mathematics and 58.3% in Language. Mean achievement level of boys in Mathematics and Language was 46.9 and 58.94 respectively. Mean achievement level of girls in Mathematics and Language was 46.09 and 58.79 respectively. Mean achievement level of urban students in Mathematics and Language was 47.32 and 61.63 respectively. Meach achievement level of rural